

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Criminal Investigation Division  
Investigative Activity Report**

**Case Number**

0500-0614

**Case Title:**

Village of Crestwood, IL

**Reporting Office:**

Chicago, IL, Area Office

**Subject of Report:**

Interview of (b) (7)(C), Water Operator,  
Village of Crestwood.

**Activity Date:**

April 29, 2009

**Copies to:**

**Related Files:**

**Reporting Official and Date:**

(b) (7)(C), RAC  
07-MAY-2009, Signed by: (b) (7)(C) RAC

**Approving Official and Date:**

(b) (7)(C) SAC  
13-MAY-2009, Approved by: (b) (7)(C), SAC

**SYNOPSIS**

04/29/2009 - U.S. EPA CID Special Agent (SA) (b) (7)(C) and SA (b) (7)(C) interviewed (b) (7)(C), employee of the Village of Crestwood's Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding his knowledge of and involvement in the operation of Crestwood's Well #1.

**DETAILS**

On April 29, 2009, U.S. EPA CID Special Agent (SA) (b) (7)(C) and SA (b) (7)(C) interviewed (b) (7)(C), employee of the Village of Crestwood's Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding (b) (7)(C) knowledge of and involvement in the operation of Crestwood's Well #1. (b) (7)(C) was interviewed during the execution of a federal search warrant at the DPW. After being informed of the identity of the interviewing agents and the purpose of the interview, (b) (7)(C) provided the following information:

(b) (7)(C): (b) (7)(C), Crestwood, IL 60445; IDL: (b) (7)(C); residence telephone: (b) (7)(C); cellular telephone: (b) (7)(C).

(b) (7)(C) was informed by the agents that (b) (7)(C) was free to leave at any time during the interview, to which (b) (7)(C) replied that (b) (7)(C) understood.

(b) (7)(C) began (b) (7)(C) employment with the DPW in 1989. (b) (7)(C) is currently the Water Department Supervisor and reports directly to (b) (7)(C) of the DPW. (b) (7)(C) has held this title for approximately four years, and was given the title by then Crestwood Mayor (b) (7)(C) after (b) (7)(C) received a Class C water operator license. (b) (7)(C) commented that (b) (7)(C) took the license exam eleven times between 1990 and 1995. Prior to becoming the Water Department Supervisor

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(b) (7)(C) was employed as a maintenance/general laborer for the DPW.

Even though (b) holds the title of Water Department Supervisor, (b) (7)(C) explained that (b) is not the "operator in charge" of the Water Department. (b) (7)(C) is the "operator in charge" and has been so for as long as (b) (7)(C) has been employed by the DPW. (b) (7)(C) also holds a Class C License. (b) (7)(C) was the Water Operator prior to (b) (7)(C) although (b) is now the Crestwood Chief of Police.

As a part of (b) job duties, (b) (7)(C) takes daily readings of the chlorination of the drinking water at the pump station, inspects the equipment and conducts routine maintenance. (b) (7)(C) clarified that the pump station is where Crestwood receives water from Alsip.

(b) (7)(C) collects samples of the drinking water on a bi-monthly basis. (b) (7)(C) is given a list of locations of where to collect the samples from (b) (7)(C) although (b) is under the impression that the Illinois EPA (IEPA) determines the sampling locations. (b) (7)(C) LNU is the point of contact from IEPA. (b) (7)(C) described (b) process for collecting samples as: let the water run from the tap for two minutes, take a clean sample of water, making sure (b) has at least 100 ml of water in the sample jar, writing on the lid of the sample jar to notate the location, and refrigerating the samples until they are sent to the IEPA for analysis. The sample collection jars are supplied to the DPW by (b) (7)(C) (sic) from Envirotest. The samples are analyzed by either IEPA or a private lab. (b) (7)(C) does test the samples for chlorine with a hand held instrument. (b) (7)(C) stores the lab analysis reports in the DPW office.

(b) (7)(C) routinely checks the flow meter at the pump station and used to check the meter at Well 1 until they stopped using it in 2007. The well was capped meaning the motor for the pump was removed a few months prior to this interview. From the beginning of (b) (7)(C) employment and continuing until December of 2007, Crestwood utilized Well 1 on a regular basis. (b) (7)(C) noted that the well would not be used during times maintenance was being performed or repairs needed to be made. (b) (7)(C) is the contractor hired by the Village when repairs or maintenance was need which (b) (7)(C) could not do (b) (7)(C). About fifteen years ago a (b) (7)(C) replaced the shaft for the well. During times of heavy rain then Mayor (b) (7)(C) would order (b) (7)(C) to not use the well.

(b) (7)(C) was not aware that the well was contaminated until 2007 when

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they had a "bad sample" and were told not to use the well anymore. While no one told (b) (7)(C) not to use the well prior to 2007, (b) often wondered why they would be using it if they have city water. It was not until a couple of weeks ago that (b) began to realize that there may have been earlier known issues with the well. (b) (7)(C) explained that while (b) was on vacation a couple of weeks prior to this interview a few of (b) friends called (b) (7) telling (b) of the news reports that the village knew the well was contaminated earlier than reported. When (b) (7)(C) returned to work (b) was told to see an attorney. SA (b) (7)(C) advised (b) (7)(C) that (b) was not going to ask (b) what the discussions were at this meeting. (b) (7)(C) replied that it was an attorney hired by the village and not (b) own attorney.

(b) (7)(C) asked (b) (7)(C) what was going on with the well. (b) (7)(C) replied "I guess they got a bad sample in 2007. A number of other DPW employees were present during this conversation and one of them mentioned something about polyvinyl chloride in the water.

(b) (7)(C) explained that (b) (7)(C) removed a logbook from the well pump house in 2007 and as far as (b) (7)(C) knows the well was not used since its closure in December of 2007. (b) (7)(C) reiterated that the well was used up until 2007. (b) (7)(C) still makes routine checks of the well pump house as there is a meter associated with the ball field located there. The ball field utilizes city water and does not use the well in question for water supply.

A chlorine injection system was used at the well until its closure. The well pumped into one of the two one million gallon reservoir tanks owned by the village.

(b) (7)(C) is familiar with the consumer confidence reports and explained that the periodically citizens are asked to collect samples from their tap which are then analyzed for copper and lead. (b) (7)(C) was not aware of any other contaminants being reported in the consumer confidence reports. (b) (7)(C) is not sure how the citizens are selected for participation in the sampling program but explained that (b) gets a list of addresses from (b) (7)(C). (b) (7)(C) completes the Monthly Operating Reports for the village.

SA (b) (7)(C) explained that the agents had credible evidence that showed that certain village officials knew that the well was contaminated prior to 2007. SA (b) (7)(C) asked (b) (7)(C) what (b) would have done

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if he had known this information prior to 2007. (b) (7)(C) replied "I'd call the newspaper or something" and explained that (b) lives three blocks from the well. (b) (7)(C) went on to say that (b) only learned of the polyvinyl contamination after (b) was called to a meeting at village hall. This meeting occurred while (b) (7)(C) was on medical leave and (b) (7)(C). (b) (7)(C), Crestwood DPW Director, was at the meeting and introduced (b) (7)(C) to representatives of a company who were discussing the installation of a filtration system on the well. SA (b) (7)(C) if other village employees such as a village manager would have known about the contamination of the well prior to 2007. (b) (7)(C) replied that (b) is just a mushroom around here and is not told much information. (b) (7)(C) added that (b) (7)(C) would have a good knowledge of the use of the well as (b) was employed by the DPW prior to becoming the police chief. (b) (7)(C) commented again: "If I'd known I'd report it."

The interview with SA (b) (7)(C) and SA (b) (7)(C) ended at this point. About an hour after the interview concluded, (b) (7)(C) approached SA (b) (7)(C) to clarify that when (b) was discussing the closure of the well (b) was sure it had been shut down in 2007 and not 1997. This report has been written to reflect this clarification. (b) (7)(C) also described to SA (b) (7)(C) an incident which occurred in 2007 where (b) (7) LNU from the IEPA discovered during a trip to Crestwood that the DPW employees were flushing the well to a storm drain. According to (b) (7)(C) (b) was directed by (b) (7)(C) to flush the well in this manner and had been doing so since 2004. The flushing was done to purge the well and was akin to flushing fire hydrants as it would get the rust out of the lines. (b) (7)(C) explained that the fire hose discharged onto a parking lot which then drained into a county storm drain which discharges to Tinley Creek. SA (b) (7)(C) showed (b) (7)(C) a blueprint which (b) confirmed was the plan to install a line from the well to the sanitary sewer system so that they could continue to flush the well. (b) (7)(C) does not believe that the line was ever constructed.

SA (b) (7)(C) asked if (b) (7)(C) would be willing to meet the agents at the pump house for the well as they had a search warrant for that location. (b) (7)(C) agreed to do so and explained that all of the DPW employees have keys to the pump house. At approximately 2:45 pm, (b) (7)(C) met SA (b) (7)(C), SA (b) (7)(C), SA (b) (7)(C) and USCG SA (b) (7)(C) the pump house for the well. (b) (7)(C) unlocked the pump house for the agents. (b) (7)(C) pointed out the pump motor which had been removed from the well, the flow meter which was utilized during

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the well's operation. The flow meter was a totalizer meaning that it was never reset to zero. The flow meter was already in use when (b) (7)(C) began (b) employment with DPW in 1988. An electricity meter is located in the pump house as well, which (b) (7)(C) explained is checked once a month by employees of Com Ed.

(b) (7)(C) then pointed out a timer device located on the wall of the pump house. (b) (7)(C) explained that the timer is very similar to a sprinkler timer used on many homes. The timer was used to control the running of the pump to the well. The user can set the starting and ending times for the pump to run. (b) (7)(C) was directed by (b) (7)(C) on when and how to use the well, such as using it less in the winter and more in the summer. (b) (7)(C) assumed that (b) (7)(C) was receiving (b) orders from then Mayor (b) (7)(C) as that was the "way the information flowed." (b) (7)(C) described the use of the timer as an "everyday thing." (b) (7)(C) told (b) (7)(C) to keep the use of the well to around ten percent of the gallons pumped from the reservoir. To achieve this (b) (7)(C) checked the flow meter for the reservoir, calculated ten percent of the flow in gallons, and set the timer for the well accordingly. Once (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) and (b) (7)(C) were discussing the use of the well and what the IEPA would do about it. During this conversation (b) (7)(C) commented "let them come after us." This discussion took place after the IEPA cited Crestwood for flushing the well into a storm drain.

SA (b) asked (b) (7)(C) about the chlorination system which was still in place. (b) (7)(C) pointed out the sampling point from which (b) would draw (b) monthly samples. On the sample forms (b) (7)(C) noted "raw" where the chlorine residual reading was to be recorded as this sample location was pre-chlorination. (b) (7)(C) used the glass vacuum sealed sample jars provided to (b) by (b) (7)(C) to collect these samples. (b) (7)(C) used to use a "roto-meter" to analyze the samples for chlorine residuals although the IEPA required Crestwood to begin using an electronic analysis device. (b) (7)(C) confirmed that this is the instrument currently located on (b) (7)(C) desk at the DPW.

SA (b) recorded the following information for the pump: cycle 60; volts 208-220/240; RPM 1750; (b) (7)(C); serial no: 51-451-183-6; type: 1450.

(b) (7)(C) attempted to gain access to the chlorine storage room of the well pump house but the key broke in the lock. (b) (7)(C) looked into

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the room from a window in the door and said (b) could see one chlorine tank being stored in the room. The cylinders are 150 lbs each and (b) (7)(C) used a scale located in the chlorine room to determine how much gas was left in each cylinder and thus when (b) needed to get a new one. (b) (7)(C) explained that when the well was in operation (b) would retrieve a new cylinder from the reservoir pump house Crestwood purchases chlorine from Aqua Chemicals in South Holland, Illinois. Eight to nine chlorine cylinders are typically stored at the reservoir pump house.

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